

elplpneug

Rees

DUNSDEN VICARAGE,

READING.

Sunday eveng  
Nov 6. 1887

Dear Madam

I do not know if this letter will ever reach you, and should it do so you will find that I am a total stranger to you, but I owe you so much gratitude for your book "Home Education" that I have long felt I must some day try to

elp2pnew8

Thank you for it. I heard of the  
book through a notice in the  
Spectator, and got it early in  
this past most beautiful summer-  
time. I have read & re-read  
it so many times, that much of it  
is a possession for life, and I  
can now truly say that it has  
given me inspiration, strength  
of purpose, guidance and courage  
which has made a real difference  
to me in health. I never

1838

remember feelings so light-hearted  
and joyous as after reading  
some of its chapters last  
summer holidays - and I cannot  
but think it may be a pleasure  
to you to know this -

I have 8 children between the  
ages of nine and thirteen, and  
the problems of life & education  
are very hard to solve some  
times.

we are far away from

51p4pnw8

High Schools, and many modern  
advantages <sup>are</sup> quite out of our  
reach, but your book has made  
me feel what can be aimed at  
and accomplished in "Home Educa-  
tion" - and every hour of the day  
I try how near I can come to  
your ideal. My little twins of  
4½ and each of the others in  
turn are "chapters" of it in my  
mind.

If this ever reaches you I hope you  
will forgive the liberty I have taken.

Yours truly  
Mary L. Hart-Davis

22/1/1808

DUNSDEN VICARAGE,

READING.

Nov 12. Evening  
1807.

Dear Madam

I do not know how to  
tell you what a pleasure your  
most kind reply to my letter  
has given me. Your words  
make me feel more than  
ever how much there is that  
we should have in common

ispiration

could we ever meet - but you  
are far away, and you live, I  
am sure, as your Educational  
Union proves among many  
people deeply in earnest on the  
subjects I care most about.

I on the contrary seldom meet  
an "answerless mind." That is  
partly why your book awoke such  
a work of thoughts in me, I

isap3pnem8

had struggled alone after all these  
years, with few teachers except  
most of my childhood. My Father  
Sir Thomas Leland with the  
Bishop of London first organized  
the Oxford local Examination  
movement & he laid the formula-  
tion of almost all I know -  
My Mother who is 81 has  
read your book & discussed it  
with me with deep interest.

12p4pnwg

I think I must send you a  
photograph taken quite lately  
of our "eight" - & tell you  
their names. It has always been  
my habit to keep accurate accounts  
of my children's progress, and a  
sentence in your book made me  
begin a new volume devoted  
entirely to "the twins" education.

As you ask to know more about  
them I think I will send it  
you, and if I send that I

125pneu8

DUNSDEN VICARAGE,

READING.

I think I must send you  
earlier volumes also. There are  
such numbers of "Illustrations" of  
your book in it. You will  
almost wonder perhaps that I  
can send such sacred records,  
but they will be perfectly safe  
registered, and your book has  
given me such an entrance to  
your mind that I am certain

is proposed

such a record is most valuable  
to you as a study. You can  
keep the whole packet two  
or three weeks, I shall not want  
it. The problem which occupies  
my mind most of all now is:-  
What are the relative values of  
Home and High School Education?  
I see the merits of both very  
strongly. If we were within

is apt to renew

easy distance of a high school I should  
have no doubt it was the best  
education - but we are  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles  
from Reading - and the "boarding  
out" system I cannot bring my  
wife to accept - besides w<sup>t</sup> I suppose  
the expense <sup>for 3 or 4 at once</sup> is far beyond us.

So we go on with a German  
Governess whose general influence  
is quite excellent, and I try to  
supply all she does not possess.

But then I say to myself

hypopneus

some times "What if in after life  
the girls should desire definite  
careers? May Lucy not  
then feel totally unequal to  
any thing like competition with  
others - altogether behind in any  
special subject - or will the  
general intelligence & width of  
mind caused by constant inter-  
course & conversation with their  
father & me enable them to  
make up for what they other-  
wise do not acquire" - I do find

hypnoeus

DUNSDEN VICARAGE,

READING.

practically that they are  
ahead of other children in receptive-  
ness - knowledge of the meanings of  
words - power to enter into any  
subject, politics, science or literature  
which may be talked of before them.  
It does not pass them by, they come  
to me with numbers of questions to  
be answered. But put against this  
number of things they are not  
achieving which others are, and the  
scale is heavy on the other side.

No one governess can give all

Adipophagus

one wants. One child with a  
special turn for figures is standing  
still at reduction at 12 years old  
for want of higher training, another  
with a turn for drawing gets no  
free hand training for the eye.

Another at 9 years old has not  
begun French. Theory of music  
history, botany, can only be done

"When Master has time" —  
<sup>X</sup>

Can these things ever be made  
up for in after life? How book?

(and how can I be like a trained teacher)  
I feel utterly unequal to it all sometimes)

expansive

see concludes that girls as well as boys  
will go to school at 12. I have read

I need your 11<sup>th</sup> chapter many

times. I try to hope that we have

many of your essentials, but I

become <sup>more</sup> & more alive to the things

we have not - the larger the

family the greater the difficulty

and forness

for the mother to supply all they

want - and yet, the greater

when they grow up the absolute

importance that they should

idp12pneus

each be "fit for something" -

I hope I have not wearied you.

Your kind letter encouraged me to  
write on. Do not please think  
of replying, at any rate until  
you have done with the books.

It is a joy to me to think I  
have the privilege of intercourse  
with you however rare -

I keep your interesting leaflet. I  
have not yet come across any Miss  
like it in this part of the world.

Yours very truly Dr. L. Hart Davis

Singe lesson 13 pence & dear  
1890 1590

Ladies' College,  
Cheltenham.

Oct 1. 19  
11.10 AM

Dear Dr Mason  
Done just  
finished the paper -  
putting in a little more  
fear - and agrees  
Early tomorrow  
the date fixed for  
meeting here will  
never do - Patti  
comes for a concert,

13p3pneus  
open

13p3pneus  
open

and he would - or at least his wife - will be here! Will not Dorothy do? You could come down on Red day, could you not?

We shall have our half-term holiday on Red Friday, Dorothy, or you won't see us Phamps & hut

dry, it will not come to me for Monday till Saturday - I may be going my mother's, or if not in my mother's - Dr. Hebbel Belcher of Bell with me with us, & sometimes -

I enclose a notice -  
Send my respects to  
Red Green Anthropos,

isp4pneu8

as he has aggravated  
me by making me hit  
Deth all leaders right  
opposite wrong - liberty  
the power for we  
intend - their  
showe basket and  
shard - a lady who  
had been high in  
Andrey to me by  
drastic to me by  
arker created quite  
a sensation - people  
sent it her to make  
her not think her  
dangerous - Be suggest  
I do n't see his - said

isospineus

Wadsworth College,  
Albany, N.Y.

P.S. I send you the  
article, because I  
have marked a few  
tips in lead, which  
I would consent to  
have cut at 11  
pp like - I have  
cut out some passages,  
as I could not  
consent to more.

ispresso

I came to work  
for April the 2nd,  
~~but~~ work rather  
it were not  
filled at all

ispresso

Will you not  
ask Archdeacon  
Robert for his  
Church Cognac  
paper?

89. J. Russell S.  
W.C.

26. P. 19<sup>50</sup>  
over  
100 years  
ago

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> 91

My dear Miss Mason  
Many thanks for  
yours, but it's too  
provoking altogether  
to think we were so  
near seeing you &  
missed. You wd. just  
love my baby. She is  
so cuddly & sweet,  
& plump, & perfectly  
good, & bright, & intelligent  
& responsive, in fact

24p2pneu8

as George puts it, "a  
delicious little fink"!  
I am telling you all this  
to show you what you  
have missed, & to make  
you more careful the  
next time you get into  
a bus to come & see me.  
Baby's name is Laura  
Katharine Dunn. (the  
first & last by request)  
She sleeps all night, &  
all the morning to my great  
joy, so that lessons have

14P3pneus

only to be shortened by  
one hour on her account.  
It's so pretty to see the others  
with her. George is careful  
about her character, "Hopes  
we shall not spoil her  
with too much petting."

The short coating this week  
was a sort of family  
festival. Today, alas,  
was the vaccination  
which both husband  
& I detest, but are afraid  
to neglect till a better  
way is found. I am one

14 p 4 p m u 8

of the fortunate mothers -  
able to nurse my baby.  
& we have some happy  
times together through  
the day. When I must  
sit down & be quiet, & can  
indulge in day-dreams  
(I think her head is mathe-  
matical) & thoughts of my  
friends. I think the lessons  
go on well. The arithmetic  
is a great pleasure to us all  
& some friends who took the  
girls to Madame Tussauds  
were amazed at the living  
sort of interest the children  
had in the queens etc.

2.

14p5pneu8

George learns to read  
(in spite of teaching. I  
always feel this.) & map  
work is a great joy  
but I think I have bothered  
you enough about my  
darklings, big & little.  
but as you kindly ask  
I can't resist the tempt-  
ation. just one thing  
more. I should be so  
much obliged if you  
could recommend me  
a grammar to teach  
them from. Mine

14P6 Pnq8

is rusty. & I can't find  
a book to help me that  
just suits.

Bent the writing for  
the Review, thank you  
very much for asking  
me. & I shall be very  
glad to do it. I don't  
quite understand  
about the shares. but  
that's sure to be all  
right, thank you.  
If you could give me  
longer time for the

14 P 7 P 2008

first article I should  
be glad, but if it is needed  
at the end of the month  
I will set to work at  
once. I think I see what  
you mean about the  
French little plays. But  
~~is~~ there to be more than  
one in an article? e.g.  
is the "visit to make an  
article of itself, or am I  
to expatiate first on the  
advantages of such plays  
then  
d. Give the outlines of  
say, half a dozen, all in one

24P8Pnew8

article? "Shopping", "dressing  
the baby", "the birthday",  
"the dolls' tea-party", "the walk  
in the fields or by the sea".  
would be the sort of subjects  
I suppose? I should like  
to let my little players  
"dress up" in the green  
bonnet", &c. This would be a  
pure joy, & certain to make  
the game popular!

I have been wanting for  
some time to write you  
an article on "Nursery  
needlework." I have gained

14pp9pneus

3

a good deal of practical  
experience by now in  
the matter. & ~~for me~~ find  
it do well worth while  
to give a good deal of  
time and thought to  
all the little arrange-  
ments & details. The  
keeping of work box &  
contents in good order.  
finishing what has  
been begun, thought  
for others in making  
really useful little presents.

<sup>24piopneus</sup>  
have all been 20 & educationally  
helpful. That I thought  
you might like a little  
paper on the subject.

With regard to Miss Gates  
of course I am only to  
please to do what I  
can - & I have asked  
her to come next Monday  
morning & will take  
her round. & I hope keep  
her to lunch after.

14 P.M. Pneus

But I must stop my  
long letter, & get on with  
my baby's bonnet.

Hoping you are feeling  
all the better for your  
Xmas holidays &在此  
much love

Your affectionate  
Frances Epps